helped to ensure the authenticity of identifications. Occasional individuals bore data which accorded with details given by Fowler, for example, a specimen of the rare Colydiid Endophloeus markovichianus (Piller & Mitt.), first recorded from Britain by Turner in the New Forest in 1862, and regarded as one of his "great finds", bears his label from the same locality. Amongst others, the name "Dr Power" occurs throughout and the private collection of water beetles of the well-known "Sam Stevens" is embodied.

In general specimens are in good condition but some, especially from damaged drawers, are filthy and others had to be re-pinned. Such defective specimens are being reconditioned as they are required.

Certain species are of particular interest. One minute non-British Scolytid bears the name Hypothenemus eruditis Westwood because it was first found in the cover of an old book, and at the other extreme were two examples of the large Scarabaeid, Polyphylla fullo (Fabricius), a name some might think (incorrectly) descriptive of the repaired cabinet! This species, an uncommon denizen of Central and Southern Europe, has occasionally been found in Kent and one of the present specimens was found dead on the sand hills of Deal, a location mentioned by Fowler, 1890.

The origin of the collection is obscure but, along with Mr. E.G. Hancock of the Hunterian Museum, attempts are being made to elucidate this. It is hoped that a collaborative evaluation of the collection can be made in the near future and that eventually it will be returned to the Museum.

I am grateful to Mr. Hancock for his advice and help, to Mrs. Moira Murray for showing me how to make replacement drawer knobs and to Mr. John Dobson for replacing damaged glass.

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LARGE-LEAVED AVENS *(GEUM MACROPHYLLUM)* ESTABLISHED AT MUGDOCK COUNTRY PARK (VC86).

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In 1999 Prof. J. H. Dickson visited Alaska and brought home, as usual, seeds and amongst them were *Geum macrophyllum*. The seeds germinated and as a result some healthy plants were raised. In 2001 Prof. J.H. Dickson was on a walk through Mugdock Country Park and spotted what he thought was a *G. macrophyllum* and asked me to visit the site and possibly verify the discovery. I duly obliged and came to the same conclusion that it was indeed *G. macrophyllum*.

Interestingly it seems to vary from the Alaskan plant, which is growing in my garden, in that the terminal lobe of the basal leaf is orbicular in shape where as the former is distinctly three-lobed. Recently, July 2003, I had the opportunity to visit the Herbarium at ERBG to have a look at the specimens collected on the west coast of America and Canada from Alaska down to Nevada and New Mexico. It became clear that it is a variable species. The specimens were collected from sea level to 7000 feet and in various habitats.

This species is not native to Britain and the plant(s) have possibly been 'imported' during the time the Craigton Castle and the stables, which are now the Visitor Centre, were occupied.

Clements and Foster (1994) p. 138 state:

"An established garden escape; naturalised on roadsides and river banks, mainly in Scotland". Interestingly, apart from Mugdock Country Park, only other recorded wild populations are in East Scotland in Angus, Moray and East Ross-shire. In the West of Scotland it can be found in 'Linn Botanical Garden', Cove, Argyll.

How did it come to the Park?

The most likely explanation is that once upon a time it was introduced as a garden plant at the now ruined Craigend Castle, although to date it has not yet been found near this ruin. Another possibility, though rather remote, it is as an 'Animal Feed Alien' since the site is near the former stables.

Nevertheless, the plant has established itself and is regenerating, as plants of various ages can be found for approx. 100 metres on both sides of path, though mainly on the right side, leading from the Visitor Centre towards the ruined castle. In late July 2003 some 50+ plants were counted though some may have been missed. It is possible that more plants could be found were it not for the proliferation of the Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) plus the effect of people, dogs and children frequenting the Park and, as I have seen, plants being swiped with sticks by children consequently allowing less seeds to ripen and disperse. A survivor indeed.

There are numerous other introduced plants both terrestrial and aquatic in the park.

Reference

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THE RED-NECKED FOOTMAN IN WEST-CENTRAL SCOTLAND

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The red-necked footman (*Atolmis rubricollis Linn.*) is a local moth with a mainly southern distribution. Skinner (1984), in *Moths of the British Isles*, gives it as widely distributed in southern counties of England and occasionally reported as far north as Lincolnshire and Staffordshire. In fact, the species was recorded near Dumfries in the1860s and was

re-discovered in Dalbeatie Forest, Kirkcudbrightshire in 1992. Since then, it has proved to be widespread and sometimes common in commercial forestry plantations in Dumfriesshire, Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtownshire (Mearns, 1999). There are also records from Port Appin in 1986 and the Oban area in 1971 (Penny, 1987).

On the 5th October 2002, approximately 50 caterpillars of what were provisionally identified as red-necked footman were found feeding on lichen on fence posts at the eastern side of the Muirhouse Muir portion of Loch Ardinning, Scottish Wildlife Trust reserve approximately 10 miles (16 Km) north of Glasgow. On follow-up visits on 15th and 28th June, 2003, adult moths were found; sometimes resting on low vegetation but more commonly flying around the tops of the scattered and stunted (3-7m tall) downy birch (*Betula pubescens*) that are characteristic of this part of the reserve. Forty were counted in less than 30 mins. Furthermore, more moths were seen flying over the isolated birches and over a single rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) on more open areas of Muirhouse Muir and also over an adjacent young (7-10m high) Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) plantation .

Also on 15th June, 2003, six adult Red-necked Footmen were found near High Mains, in commercial forestry of the Buchanan Castle Estate near Drymen. A further visit on 29th June, revealed abundant moths flying around the tops of 12 – 15 m high Sitka spruce and Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) in multiple areas of the plantation.

Skinner (1984) describes the moth as inhabiting deciduous and coniferous woodland and states that the larvae feed on algae and lichen on the branches and trunks of oak, beech and several species of conifer. A possible explanation for the apparent spread of the species in the West of Scotland could therefore be that, like the crossbill, goshawk and gold crest, it has been able to take advantage of commercial conifer plantations. This cannot however be the whole story as the colony at Loch Ardinning reserve suggests an expansion into new habitats. Here, the moth flies over birch growing in rank heather. At the main site the trees are sufficiently close to each other to be collectively regarded as a small but very open copse but the moths were also associated with isolated trees. In addition, at least a proportion of the larvae at Loch Ardinning were feeding on lichen on fence posts.

The abundance of the red-necked footman at the two Stirlingshire sites described above suggests that the species will be found to have colonised other areas in Central Scotland.

References

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HAWFINCHES AT TALLA RESERVOIR, PEEBLESHIRE (VC?).

Margaret M H Lyth

On 11 May 2002 at about 6.30 pm I observed three male and two female Hawfinches in a field beside Talla Reservoir near Tweedsmuir, Borders.

The birds were chasing each other and I was able to observe them with binoculars from a distance of about 25 metres. After about 5 minutes they flew off towards a nearby conifer plantation. On consulting the "*New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991*" by DW Gibbons *et al.,* 1993, I noticed a lack of records from around this immediate area. Since Hawfinches are rather scarce breeding birds this observation seems noteworthy.

Hawfinches are often associated with mature woods such as large broadleaved woodland estates or parks but can also be found in coniferous woods. With their enlarged bill they are capable of cracking the stones of cherry, white beam or other such hard seeds and they are also said to be fond of peas. Being an often elusive or shy species they may be more widespread than current knowledge suggests. Their main Scottish locations are in the Borders, Lothian and Perthshire with a few outposts elsewhere.

BATS IN CLARENCE DRIVE, CLEVEDEN, GLASGOW WEST END.

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Late in summer 2004, whilst I was admiring the dusk unfold on a balmy evening, two black arrows whizzed by. At first I thought they were starlings. Wrong. One the next night, at the same time, with the aid of a comfy chair I awaited their return. There they go – two bats, one slightly below the other. A pilot and wingman? a happy couple? Competitive siblings? I estimated their wingspan to be about six to seven inches, in other words about 15 to 18 centimetres, as deduced by measuring the gap between branches in a dead tree that they flew through. Were they Pipistrelle bats or the Common bat?

The two bats then flew across the floodlit football pitches behind Peckhams. Insects must have been milling around the vapour lamps – a candle light dinner for two? Whatever, it was a delight to watch them, dodging and playing. Who says bats don't have fun?

I believe that they live either in a local church or perhaps in the brick structures of the redundant chimneystacks of local tenements. I do hope they have planning permission, after all this is a conservation area.

Editors comment. This interesting and amusing account of the occurrence of bats in the West End conservation area of Glasgow is of some significance, as there appears to be no proper scientific data on bats in the Glasgow area.